Spring 2012 Public Lecture Series

Topic: Aformal Architecture
Date and Time: 24 February 2012 (Friday), 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Venue: Room KB419, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong

Bio of the Speaker
Jonathan D Solomon is an American architect based in Hong Kong, where he is Associate Professor and Acting Head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong. His work explores public space and the contemporary city, through design projects such as Ooi Botos Gallery, a shophouse in a Hong Kong street market converted into a gallery for contemporary Chinese photographic art; research projects such as his 2004 book 13 Projects for the Sheridan Expressway, the 26th volume in the Pamphlet Architecture series; curatorial projects such as 2010’s Workshopping in the US Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale; and publication projects through 306090 books, where he has served as a founding editor since 2001. His latest book Cities Without Ground, coauthored with Adam Frampton and Clara Wong, explores the relationship between climate and public space in the unique three-dimensional urbanism of Hong Kong.

Lecture Synopsis
Aformal Architecture explicates a spatial logic for the city of Hong Kong through architectural products that can be explained neither by mainstream understandings of formal or informal processes, and explores the consequences for public space in a dense city. Coinciding with the publication of Cities Without Ground, a book that maps the complex three-dimensional connectivity of Hong Kong's pedestrian passageways, this lecture explores general conditions of the aformal through specific exploration of three buildings in Hong Kong that while outside mainstream histories of the city's development exhibit unique qualities and three architectural proposals that exacerbate them.